

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SY-05 SAM-01

SCCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 PA-01 USIA-06

SP-02 DHA-02 SCA-01 NSC-05 PM-04 CPR-01 /091 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:MLEVITSKY:MB

APPROVED BY EUR:JAARMITAGE

M - MR. EGAN

NEA/IAI - MR. STERNBERG

IO/UNP - MR. HELMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH

S/S - MR. SHANKLE

C-JMONTGOMERY

----- 121700

P 132238Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, UR, IS, US

SUBJECT: JDL REQUEST FOR MEETING IN DEPARTMENT

REF: STATE 116689

1. OFFICER IN CHARGE, BILATERAL RELATIONS, EUR/SOV HAD
TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH RUSSELL KELNER OF JEWISH
DEFENSE LEAGUE APRIL 13 REGARDING JDL'S REQUEST OF MAY 3
FOR "URGENT MEETING" WITH THE SECRETARY. (FYI: DEPART-
MENT HAD EARLIER OFFERED JDL MEETING WITH OIC, BILATERAL
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AFFAIRS, EUR/SOV.) KELNER WISHED TO ARRANGE MEETING ON

MAY 19 AT UNSPECIFIED SITE ON CAPITOL HILL.

2. DEPT. OFFICER TOLD KELNER THAT MEETING WOULD NOW NOT RPT NOT BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CHANGED. WHEN ASKED WHY, DEPT. OFFICER REPLIED THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE MEETING WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE IN VIEW OF RABBI KAHANE'S RECENT STATEMENTS IN ISRAEL ABOUT JDL INTENTIONS AND BECAUSE OF APPARENT DESIRE OF JDL TO HAVE SOME KIND OF PUBLIC CONFRONTATION. KELNER SAID THAT JDL SUPPORTED KAHANE'S POSITIONS AND ENDED BY SAYING THAT "YOU CAN PROBABLY EXPECT CONTINUATION OF THE SAME TYPE OF ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK THEN."

3. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE FOR USE ON "IF ASKED" BASIS:

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS REFUSED TO MEET WITH JDL REPRESENTATIVE?

A. YES. EARLIER A DEPARTMENT OFFICER HAD OFFERED TO MEET WITH THE JDL. THEREAFTER, RABBI KAHANE IN ISRAEL MADE SOME RATHER EXTREME STATEMENTS CONCERNING JDL INTENTIONS AND THERE WERE OTHER INDICATIONS THAT THE JDL WISHED TO HAVE SOME KIND OF PUBLIC CONFRONTATION. WE THEREFORE INFORMED THE JDL THAT WE DID NOT BELIEVE A MEETING WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES.

4. ABOVE SHOULD BE USED TO REPLACE FOURTH QUESTION AND ANSWER OF PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN REFTEL. ROBINSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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